

# Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board

## Statutory Authority:

Duties and organization of the Foster Care Review Board are outlined in 43-1301 to 43-1318, Rev. Stat. Nebr., 1942, (1983 Cum. Sup.) The Foster Care Review Board is the state IV-E review agency. The plans, services and placements of children in out of home care 6 months or longer are reviewed by citizen volunteers to assure children are safe, secure, and moving into permanent homes in compliance with PL 96-272, child caring facilities are toured, up-to-date data is maintained on a tracking system, data is disseminated through an annual report, and findings are shared with all legal parties. When deemed appropriate by the state board, a request to appear in further court hearings.

## Vision Statement:

The vision of the Foster Care Review Board is that every child and youth in out of home care live in a safe, permanent home, experience an enduring relationship with one or more caring adults, and have every opportunity to grow up to become a responsible, productive adult.

The Board works to ensure this by reviewing cases and making recommendations to focus the case towards permanency for the child, visiting facilities, tracking children, and taking legal standing on cases where the Board believes the children and youth's best interests are not being met. The Board collects & disseminates data, findings and recommendations through the annual report and other means.

## Mission Statement:

The State Foster Care Review Board's mission is to ensure the best interests of children in out-of-home care are being met through external citizen review, monitoring facilities that house children and youth, maintaining up-to-date data on a statewide tracking system, through legal standing, and by disseminating data and recommendations through an Annual Report.

## Goals:

1. Operate and maintain a computerized tracking system of all children in out-of-home care on the state main frame.
2. Review all children and youth in out-of-home care to assure they have permanency plans and timely and appropriate services.
3. Monitor children's placements to assure safety and appropriateness and act on concerns regarding placements.
4. Improve the foster care experience for children in out-of-home care.
5. Communicate information on children in out-of-home care.
6. Maintain the agencies focus on fiscal management.
7. Continue to use technology to improve staff efficiency and communication.

## Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	1,063,337	1,145,465	1,234,601	1,213,605	1,221,101	1,277,013
Cash Fund	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Federal Fund	313,152	336,283	461,100	338,030	461,100	339,675
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,376,489	1,487,748	1,701,701	1,557,635	1,688,201	1,622,688

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## Program 116 - Administration & Operations

### Program Objectives:

1. Track all children in out-of-home care per state mandate and collect, verify, and clarify information submitted by HHS, Courts, private agencies, and detention centers.
2. Provide timely reviews for at least 90% of the federal title IV-E eligible children who have been in care for 6 months or longer, as mandated by federal law.
3. Determine if children's placements are safe and appropriate through the review process and respond when placement concerns are identified.
4. Promote safety, security, and permanency for children by communicating pertinent issues.
5. Communicate information on children in care by an annual report and other means.
6. Continue to implement recommendations regarding internal controls of disbursements and property.

### Financial Data:

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### Performance Measures:

Description	FY00 Actual	FY01 Current	FY02 Request	FY03 Request
Reviews conducted	5,800	6,390	6,642	6,642
Children reviewed (some 2x per year)	3,834	4,217	4,383	4,383
Reports sent to legal parties	33,516	33,516	35,280	35,280
Court reviews requested for IV-E	390	417	446	477
Cases referred to legal standing	15	20	25	30
Cases resolved without court involvement	235	235	275	280
Children added to Tracking System	5,500	5,665	5,835	6,010
HHS documents received and processed	62,000	68,000	74,800	82,280
Court documents received/processed	40,000	44,000	48,400	53,240
Private plcmnt reports recd/processed	500	500	500	500
Tours of child caring facilities	12	25	25	25
Annual Reports distributed	750	800	825	850
Data provided to public, other agencies	130	155	160	175
Presentations to civic groups	25	25	25	25
Education programs provided	3	5	5	5
Community members trained	40	105	105	40
Volunteer hours donated	29,000	33,600	35,700	35,700
Updated group home directories provided	0	275	0	275